

**Submission to the Commission on the Marriage Canon
from Rev. Canon Anthony (Tony) Capon, St. John's Church, Kingston, Diocese of
Ontario (cpn26@cogeco.ca).**

I believe that a sexual relationship between persons of the same gender should not be referred to as a marriage for the following reasons:

1. It violates the principles of evolutionary biology. Reading scientific literature on evolutionary biology reveals that sexual distinction of male and female is seen as an “invention” of evolution, with the purpose of maintaining the homogeneity of a species, by spreading the process of reproduction throughout the species rather than by action of a single unit. Sexual activity between units of the same gender can have no relevance to this.

2. It violates the nature of the present human body. All parts and organs of present-day human bodies, whether male or female, which are sexually oriented and distinguished, are invariably connected with reproduction, and are therefore clearly designed for connection between male and female. Relations between two bodies of the same gender are therefore a contradiction of these features of the bodies involved.

3. It violates the purposes of God as revealed in Holy Scripture. In the summary of the process of creation at the beginning of the book of Genesis, we read: “In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and said to them, ‘Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth...’” (ch. 1: 27, 28). This is later amplified: “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother, and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh” (ch. 2: 24). Same-sex relationships are referred to elsewhere in Scripture, but always as a deviation, never as an acceptable variation.

I believe that we should not forbid or condemn same-sex relationships, so long as they are completely consensual, but that they should not be classified by the term “marriage”.